

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066941

STADIS//////////

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 490 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE LONDON PRETORIA CAPE TOWN 20 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0490

STADIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, SF,US

SUBJECT: CODELS TO SOUTHERN RHODESIA

1. WHILE RECOGNIZE DECISION TO VISIT SOUTHERN RHODESIA MAY
HAVE MERITS NOT READILY APPARENT HERE AND WHICH CODEL DENT,
ICHARD AND RUNNELS MUST MAKE THEMSELVES BASED IN PART ON
DEPARTMENT'S BRIEFING OF SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, REGARD
TIMING AS UNFORTUNATE AND WISH RAISE WORD OF CAUTION ON RISKS
AND DANGERS FOR U.S. POLICY.

2. URGE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING STRESS THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
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RHODESIAN LEADER SMITH AND ANC NATIONALISTS HAVE NOW REACHED

UNEASY STALEMATE WITH ONE LEADER OF NATIONALISTS ABOUT TO GO ON CONTROVERSIAL TRIAL IN SALISBURY AND ANOTHER HAVING JUST BEEN RUTHLESSLY KILLED IN ZAMBIA. PROSPECTS ARE NOT FOR MERE ESCALATION IN GUERRILLA ACTION BUT FOR FULL SCALE WARFARE IF WAY NOT FOUND FOR NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. THIS IS VORSTER'S AND KAUNDA'S PERCEPTION OF THINGS WHICH WE MUST TREAT SERIOUSLY.

3. SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS OUT IN FRONT COUNSELLING RETURN TO TALKS AND AVOIDANCE OF VIOLENCE AND VORSTER HAS JUST CONCLUDED 12-HOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH RHODESIAN LEADER SMITH. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE TENSE AND OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN FOR RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

4. BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS RIGHTFUL SOVEREIGN OVER RHODESIA WITH LEGITIMATE ROLE TO PLAY IN CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN TOLD NOT VERY POLITELY TO KEEP OUT OF PRESENT DELICATE STAGE. ON THIS POINT SMITH, VORSTER AND KAUNDA ALL AGREE RHODESIA IS AN AFRICAN PROBLEM FOR AFRICANS TO SETTLE.

5. FOR AN AMERICAN DELEGATION TO COME TROOPING ON SCENE AT THIS TIME COULD ONLY BE REGARDED WITH SUSPICION BY MOST ALL PARTICIPANTS EXCEPT SMITH WHO COULD TAKE COMFORT AT CRITICAL TIME. AFRICAN FEARS OVER CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR AFFAIRS (WHICH SURFACED WITH DAVIS NOMINATION) WOULD SURELY BE REVIVED. SINCERITY OF U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO REPEAL BYRD AMMENDMENT WOULD BE QUESTIONED. FACT THAT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPRESENTED ON DELEGATION WOULD INEVITABLY PROMPT SPECULATION (INV VIEW OF RUMORED RHODESIAN DEALINGS WITH VENEZUELA FOR SABRE JETS) THAT DELEGATION IS A PROBING MISSION FOR POSSIBLE ARM SALES TO SMITH GOVERNMENT.

6. IF NOVEMBER 1972 VISIT OF CLARK MCGREGOR TO SOUTHERN RHODESIA AT LESS TROUBLED TIME WHEN HE WAS NO LONGER WHITE HOUSE COUNSELOR RAISED QUESTIONS AMONG AFRICANS ABOUT U.S. SINCERITY AND INTENTIONS, HOW MUCH MORE SO WOULD A CODEL VISIT TO RHODESIA AT THIS TIME.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND OF WERNER ACKERMAN. ASSUMING HE MAY BE EMPLOYEE OF RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, WE
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WONDER IF VISIT OFFICIALLY PUSHED IN HOPES DEMONSTRATING SMITH HAS FRIENDS AND BACKING WITHIN MOST POWERFUL WESTERN NATION.

8. BLACK AFRICANS HAVE NEVER BEEN COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT U.S.G. HAS ESCHOWED RELATIONS WITH RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. A CODEL VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD REINFORCE THESE BELIEFS.

9. FURTHERMORE, WE WONDER IF -- GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF PLAY BETWEEN SMITH AND VORSTER -- SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER OR HIS CLOSE ADVISORS KNOW ABOUT PROPOSED CODEL VISIT TO SOUTHERN RHODESIA, AND IF THEY DO, HOW S.A.G. WOULD LOOK UPON IT AT THIS DELICATE TIME. WOULD DEFER TO EMBASSY CAPE TOWN FOR AUTHORITATIVE ASSESSMENT, BUT PERSONAL HUNCH IS THAT HIGH SAG POLICY LEVEL MIGHT EVEN WISH TO FOREGO RECEIVING CODEL IN SOUTH AFRICA AS PRICE IT MAY BE WILLING TO PAY FOR DISCOURAGING CODEL VISIT TO SOUTHERN RHODESIA AT THIS TIME.

10. FINALLY, WHILE THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A VISIT BY S.A. MILITARY MAN OF ADMIRAL JOHNSON'S RANK TO U.S. AND THAT OF THREE MAN CODEL DELEGATION TO S.A. AND RHODESIA, NEVERTHELESS PRESENCE OF TWO HOUSE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN PLANNED VISIT TO SIMONSTOWN AND SILVERMINE PLUS MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY CHIEF SUGGEST THAT SIMILAR U.S. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE INVOLVED.
WILKOWSKI UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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